

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 /075 W
-----021137 108384 /20

R 020700Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1450
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1889

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM IR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: MEDIA INTERVIEWS WITH IRANIAN PRISONERS

REF TEHRAN 1884 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US BBC TELEVISION TEAM CAME TO IRAN IN LATE 1976 AND OVER TWO-WEEK PERIOD INVESTIGATED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS TRIP TO PRISONS IN TEHRAN WHERE TEAM, INTER ALIA, FILMED VISA HAJEBER ALIVE, WELL, AND WALKING NORMALLY. ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBOFF, HAJABEE WAS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASE WHO HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN TORTURED AND CRIPPLED. BRITISH EMBOFF DID NOT SEE FILM, BUT CAMERA CREW REPORTED SHE WAS IN AS GOOD SPIRITS AS COULD BE EXPECTED, AND THAT PRISON CONDITIONS DID NOT SEEM HARSH. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS THAT BRITISH EMBASSY HERE INFORMED FILM HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN SHOWN YET, AND THAT SOME SORT OF "HOLD" HAS BEEN PLACED ON FILM'S USE FOR REASONS UNKNOWN.

2. ABOUT FEB 16, BELGIAN JOURNALIST NAMED TOUSSAINT WHO WORKS FOR BELGIAN LE SOIR VISITED IRAN AND WAS SHOWN THROUGH EVIN PRISON. TOUSSAINT HAD BEEN GIVEN LIST BY BELGIAN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRANCH AND ASKED TO CHECK ON WHERE-
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ABOUTS OF GROUP WHICH AI ALLEGED HAD BEEN MISTREATED OR KILLED. BELGIAN DCM SAID TOUSSAINT PICKED OUT THOSE NOT IN JAIL FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES -- "CRIMES OF CONSCIENCE" PRISONERS -- AND ASKED TO SEEL ALL EIGHT. PRISON OFFICIALS PRODUCED THEM AND TOUSSAINT MADE TAPE RECORDINGS AND TOOK PICTURES OF ALL (EXCEOT ONE, WHO REFUSED, -- PRISON OFFICIALS GAVE TOUSSAINT HIS PICTURE LATER, AND TOUSSAINT CONFIRMED

IT WAS SAME MAN). ACCORDING TO BELGIAN DCM TOUSSAINT HAD BEEN GRANTED INTERVIEWS AND ACCESS AS RESULT OF HIS REQUEST DURING TRIP LAST YEAR COVERING FRENCH PRESIDENT'S TEHRAN VISIT. TOUSSAINT THOUGHT PRISON FACILITIES WERE REASONABLY GOOD AND WAS CONVINCED HE HAD SEEN INDIVIDUALS HE WANTED TO SEE.

3. FOR LONDON: WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF AND WHEN BBC TV FILM EVER SHOWN. FOR BRUSSELS: TOUSSAINT'S REPORT APPARENTLY APPEARED IN LE SOIR FEB 18 OR 19. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY.
MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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